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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 31 and 32 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 31 and 32 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jeong (U.S. Patent No. 6,658,141). Claims 1, 3-13, 20-22 and 25 were allowed. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 31-32, including independent claim 31.

The Examiner notes that the result of claim 31 is merely the adapting of a data process, which is alleged to not be a real/concrete/tangible result. The result of claim 31 is an image. The image is concrete and tangible. A person may view the image for diagnosis, where the image shows scanned tissue or fluids. While turning off a monitor may result in the image being gone, the image generated, when existing as recited in the claims, is concrete and tangible. The image is more than mere data and data processing. Images may be seen, and the user can interact with images. The image provides a useful, tangible, and concrete result.

Independent claim 31 recites axially processing ultrasound data and adapting a data process as a function of the axial processing to reduce grating lobe energy in the data. Jeong does not disclose these limitations. Jeong uses lateral filtering or filtering across channels of an array (abstract), not axial filtering. Once an image point is identified, signals, $s(x)$, associated with the image point are obtained across the array (col. 10, lines 4-10). The signals are along a lateral direction for a given image point (col. 6, lines 56-61). As represented in equations 21 and 22 for grating lobe filtering, the filtered signal value is a function of beamformed values at different angles, not axial information. Jeong filters laterally for an image point, so does not suggest axially processing data and adapting as a function of the axial processing to reduce grating lobe energy in the data.

Dependent claim 32 depends from the independent claim 31 is allowable for the same reasons as the independent claim.

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CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (650) 943-7554 or Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

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Respectfully submitted,



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